

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

FILE NUMBER: 100-106670

MAIN FILE

SECTION:94



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MAIN FILE

100-106670

SECTION 94

~~TOP SECRET~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. D. W. Moore, Jr.
- 1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
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- Files & Com. _____
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- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall

DATE: 10/20/75

FROM : J. G. Deegan *JGD*

- 1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
- 1 - Mr. J. D. Powell

SUBJECT: ARTICLE BY JACK ANDERSON AND LES WHITTEN
CONCERNING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

This memorandum sets out detailed analysis of news article critical of former FBI investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr., and recommends we adhere to "no comment" position regarding allegations in the article, copy attached.

SYNOPSIS:

"The Washington Post" on 10/9/75, carried a column by Jack Anderson and Les Whitten in their "The Washington Merry-Go-Round" syndicated column with caption "Associates Ask Probe To Clear King's Name." The article states in reference to the FBI and Martin Luther King, Jr. that former Director Hoover personally ordered leaks regarding King's alleged sexual exploits and supposed Communist ties following the FBI's becoming aware King was being considered for the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Hoover supposedly labeled King as well as the late Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and former FBI official Quinn Tamm as Mr. Hoover's most hated enemies. The article states that the FBI conducted surveillance of King and bugged hotel suites. The following specific questions are set out and answered in the column:

- Did Dr. King have secret communist connections?;
- Did the FBI tape a sex orgy involving Dr. King at Washington, D. C.'s old Willard Hotel?;
- Did Dr. King, while in Norway to

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CONTINUED - OVER

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Classified by 6684
Exempt from GDS, Category Number 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite

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by 6080
FED/bja

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DECLASSIFICATION 6074

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Article By Jack Anderson And Les Whitten
Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.

accept the Nobel Peace Prize chase a woman through an Oslo hotel?; Did Dr. King carry on a romance with the wife of a Los Angeles dentist?

Anderson refutes each allegation based on his supposed interviews of persons present. Our files do not support Anderson's charges except that our files agree with his findings regarding the Oslo incident, and we did surveill King occasionally and conduct electronic surveillances of his hotel rooms occasionally. Anderson concludes "Thus the FBI's attempt to besmirch the great civil rights leader, as Dr. King himself predicted before his martyrdom, has backfired against the FBI."

Detailed response to each point as revealed by our files set forth in following Details.

OBSERVATIONS:

Each item referred to by Anderson is based on an incident covered in our files. Anderson deals with each item and dismisses it as refuted based on denials of the allegations by persons involved with King in each situation who, in each instance, deny or explain away the accusation. The obvious self-interest in such denials is ignored by Anderson.

RECOMMENDATION:

Any inquiry regarding this article be responded to by "no comment."

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Article By Jack Anderson And Les Whitten
Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.

DETAILS:

The 10/9/75, issue of "The Washington Post" carries the syndicated column of Jack Anderson and Les Whitten "The Washington Merry-Go-Round." This article has an added headline "Associates Ask Probe To Clear King's Name."

The article states that associates of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., have asked the authors to investigate the FBI's "smear charges" against King and to publish the authors' "honest findings." It is stated that Dr. King's widow, according to the associates, hopes the authors will clear Dr. King's name.

Anderson Allegation

The article claims that the FBI, sometime after 1964, began leaking stories about Dr. King's alleged sexual exploits and his supposed communist ties. The leaks allegedly were ordered personally by the late Director Hoover who "had developed a fierce hatred" for King. It is stated that Mr. Hoover was infuriated when he was advised "in a secret memo from his intelligence network" that Dr. King was expected to receive the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. The article states "he was so infuriated that he scrawled words of outrage on the memo in blue pencil."

Bureau Files

Information regarding Dr. King obtained during the course of our investigation of him and the communist influence on him was disseminated in the normal course of business to appropriate officials and agencies in the Executive Branch, e.g. U. S. Attorney General and other Department of Justice officials, White House officials and occasionally the President. The files do not indicate a "whispering campaign" against King was ordered by Mr. Hoover or conducted by the Bureau.

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Article By Jack Anderson And Les Whitten
Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.

The extent of Mr. Hoover's reactions to Dr. King's being nominated for and receiving the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize was as follows: Newspaper article 7/18/64, reported that Dr. King had been proposed for the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Hoover noted on the serial "What a farce!" (100-106670-398). In another article datelined 10/6/64, it was again reported that Dr. King was likely to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Hoover on this serial, noted "King could well qualify for the 'top alley cat' prize!" (100-106670-480). Mr. Hoover noted "Shameful!" when it was, in fact announced that Dr. King had been awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. (100-106670-484, 491). There is no indication in the file that Mr. Hoover initiated any specific action or intensified investigation as a result of Dr. King's receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

Anderson Allegation

The article states that Herbert Jenkins, Atlanta, Georgia, Chief of Police, who was at that time president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), visited Director Hoover. Mr. Hoover supposedly "suddenly, out of context...blurted that he had three enemies whom he hated more than anyone else in the world," former Bureau official Quinn Tamm, former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. King. The article continues by stating that the FBI kept Dr. King under surveillance and "even bugged his hotel suites." It is alleged that the FBI used the information obtained to start a "whispering campaign" against King.

Bureau Files

Herbert T. Jenkins, Chief of Police, Atlanta, Georgia, who had recently been elected president of IACP, had an interview with Director Hoover in the Director's Office on the afternoon

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Article By Jack Anderson And Les Whitten
Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.

of 1/18/65. Memorandum of J. J. Casper to Mr. Mohr dated 1/19/65, records this interview. Mr. Hoover did discuss at some length, his displeasure with Quinn Tamm, executive Director of IACP and the manner in which Mr. Tamm was handling his functions with the IACP. Mr. Hoover did not describe Mr. Tamm as an "enemy." The only reference to former Attorney General Robert Kennedy was the statement by Mr. Hoover that Mr. Kennedy had attempted to have Mr. Hoover lower the standards for FBI Agents as a possible means of increasing the number of Negro Agents employed by the Bureau. Mr. Hoover explained to Mr. Jenkins that he had told the Attorney General that he would not do this and that he would not drop the standards of Special Agents as long as he was Director of the FBI. The only reference to Mr. King is as follows:

"Mr. Hoover also discussed with Chief Jenkins his meeting with Doctor Martin Luther King. He pointed out that while he has only publicly called King a liar, he could have told of King's poor morals and communist connections." There is no statement of Mr. Hoover's describing anyone as his "enemy" or of his making any statements regarding his hating anyone.

Anderson Allegation

The statement that the FBI kept Dr. King under surveillance and "bugged his hotel suites" is not subject to dispute. The Bureau did surveil King on occasion and we did conduct electronic surveillance of hotel rooms occupied by King.

The following questions are raised in the article and answered therein:

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Article By Jack Anderson and Les Whitten
Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.

Anderson Allegation

"Did Dr. King have secret Communist connections?"
The article states that Dr. King "was in touch with a known Communist attorney in New York City who tried to influence the civil rights campaign." Anderson concludes that Dr. King did not let the Communists take over his movement and that Dr. King "remained a staunch anti-Communist." It is acknowledged that he accepted some of the attorney's anti-Vietnam War views.

Bureau Files

[REDACTED]

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Anderson Allegation

"Did the FBI tape a sex orgy, involving Dr. King, at Washington's old Willard Hotel?" The article states that "witnesses" who were with Dr. King at the Willard Hotel said that Dr. King used some "ribald" language but indulged in no sexual acts.

"There was evidence on the tape, according to those who heard it, that sexual intercourse occurred. But Dr. King was not one of the lovers. The man's voice was identified as that of an acquaintance."

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Article By Jack Anderson And Les Whitten
Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bureau Files

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Anderson Allegation

"Did Dr. King, while in Norway to accept the Nobel peace prize, chase a woman through an Oslo hotel?" The article alleges that the FBI whispered such rumors around Washington, but that "witnesses" state someone in King's party other than himself was involved with some prostitutes in the hotel, and that King was not so involved.

Bureau Files

Our files do not contain any information indicating that the FBI whispered rumors as referred to above around Washington. Our files do reflect that we had information that someone in King's party other than King was involved with some prostitutes in the hotel in Oslo, Norway. (100-442529-555).

Anderson Allegation

"Did Dr. King carry on a romance with the wife of a Los Angeles dentist?" The article states that "we spoke directly with both the dentist and his wife. Both agreed that she was Dr. King's close friend but not his lover."

Bureau Files

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Article By Jack Anderson And Les Whitten
Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.



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The article ends:

"Thus the FBI's attempt to besmirch the great civil rights leader, as Dr. King himself predicted before his martyrdom, has backfired against the FBI." This conclusion is not supported by our files.

JW *JA* *Jna* *W* *K*

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 Dep. AD Inv. _____
 Asst. Dir.:

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- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

The Washington Merry-Go-Round.

Associates Ask Probe To Clear King's Name

By Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Associates of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have asked us to investigate the FBI's smear charges against him and to publish our honest findings. His widow, they say, hopes we will clear his name.

We have found that the FBI sometime after 1964 began leaking stories about Dr. King's alleged sexual exploits and supposed Communist ties. The leaks were ordered personally by the late J. Edgar Hoover, who had developed a fierce hatred for the black leader.

Hoover began the smear campaign after learning in advance that Dr. King would get the 1964 Nobel peace prize. The selection was reported to the late FBI chief in a secret memo from his intelligence network. He was so infuriated that he scrawled words of outrage on the memo in blue pencil, we were told.

Not long afterwards, Hoover was visited by Atlanta's police chief, Herbert Jenkins, who was then president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Suddenly, out of context, Hoover blurted that he had three enemies whom he hated more than anyone else in the world. He identified them as his former deputy Quinn Tamm, ex-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The dumbfounded Jenkins later encountered his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., on the streets of Atlanta. Jenkins took the occasion to warn the old man pointedly that "Junior better be on the alert. It may be that the FBI is looking into him, and they look pretty thoroughly."

Indeed, the FBI kept the civil rights crusader under surveillance and even bugged his hotel suites. Then the bureau used the information to start a whispering campaign against him.

At the urging of his associates, we have now checked into the stories that the FBI spread about him. Here are our findings:

Did Dr. King have secret Communist connections? He

was in touch with a known Communist attorney in New York City, who tried to influence his civil rights campaign. However, Dr. King never let the Communists take over his movement and remained a staunch anti-Communist.

He eventually accepted some of the attorney's anti-Vietnam War views. But those who knew Dr. King agree he was motivated by humanity, not ideology.

Did the FBI tape a sex orgy involving Dr. King, at Washington's old Willard Hotel? Witnesses who were with him at the Willard recall that he used some ribald language but indulged in no sexual acts.

There was evidence on the tape, according to those who heard it, that sexual intercourse occurred. But Dr. King was not one of the lovers. The man's voice was identified as that of an acquaintance.

Did Dr. King, while in Norway to accept the Nobel peace prize, chase a woman through an Oslo hotel? Rumors of the hot pursuit were whispered around Washington by the FBI.

Witnesses recall that some supporters of Dr. King let their jubilation get out of hand, brought prostitutes into the hotel and raised a ruckus. The witnesses remember clearly that King was not among them but, on the contrary, tried to quiet the celebration.

Did Dr. King carry on a romance with the wife of a Los Angeles dentist? To check out this FBI report, we spoke directly with both the dentist and his wife.

Both agreed that she was Dr. King's close friend but not his lover.

Thus the FBI's attempt to besmirch the great civil rights leader, as Dr. King himself predicted before his martyrdom, has backfired against the FBI.

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 DATE 2-23-81 BY SP4/AM/ML
 6576

The Washington Post 424
 Washington Star-News _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 10/9/75

5 Jan

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NR 055 NY CODE

10:17PM URGENT 9-9-75 PLQ

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-116395)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (62-15263)

ATTN: INID, W. O. CREGAR

SENSTUDY-75.

RENYTEL, SEPTEMBER 8, 1975.

[REDACTED], INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (NYCPD), ADVISED NYCPD HAS LOCATED NO RECORD OF ANY ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE FURTHER ADVISED NYCPD CONSIDERS INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES REGARDING ANY SUCH SURVEILLANCE AS BUREAU RECORDS AND THAT ANY DISCLOSURE OF SUCH RECORDS IS THE BUREAU'S PREROGATIVE.

[REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT WHEN THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE WAS CONDUCTED, HAS SINCE RETIRED AND LIVING SOMEWHERE IN MAINE. [REDACTED] SAID HE COULD FURNISH NO FURTHER INFORMATION RE ABOVE MATTER. END.

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cc 100-106820 (King)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR 028 NY CODE

8:33PM URGENT SEPTEMBER 8, 1975 GBM

TELETYPE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (02-116395)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (02-15065)

ATTN: INID, W. O. CREGAR

SENSTUDY-75, BUDED, SEPTEMBER 8, 1975.

RE BUREAU TEL, SEPTEMBER 5, 1975.

[REDACTED] INTELLIGENCE DIVISION,
NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (NYCPD), ADVISED HE HAS NO
KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE BY NYCPD ON MARTIN
LUTHER KING. **[REDACTED]** STATED RECORDS PRESENTLY BEING REVIEWED
TO DETERMINE IF ANY RECORDS MAINTAINED ON ELECTRONIC
SURVEILLANCE OF KING. **[REDACTED]** BEING CONTACTED SEPTEMBER 9,
1975, AND BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED.
END.

b7(c)

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DATE 2-23-94 BY SP4 JAM/LL
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M. O. ...
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L. J. ...
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100-104470 (King)

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100-104470

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NR 011 MM CODE

3:39PM URGENT SEPTEMBER 8, 1975 JGS

TO DIRECTOR (62-116395)

FROM MIAMI (66-3346) (RUC)

PATTIN: INED, U.O. OREGAR

SENSTUDY 75, BUDED SEPTEMBER 8, 1975

RE BUREAU TELETYPE SEPTEMBER 5, 1975.

ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1975, SUPERVISOR [REDACTED] AND SA

[REDACTED] MET WITH [REDACTED], ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, AND [REDACTED], LEGAL COUNSEL, DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT (DCPSD), AT THE DCPSD.

THESE TWO OFFICIALS WERE ADVISED OF THE REQUEST TO THE FBI BY THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE (SSC), FOR ACCESS TO ALL MEMORANDA AND OTHER MATERIALS WHICH RELATE TO ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING BY STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES.

INFORMATION IN MIAMI AIRTEL MAY 23, 1966, CAPTIONED "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SECURITY MATTER-C" WAS ORALLY FURNISHED AND THEY WERE ASKED WHETHER THE DCPSD HAS ANY OBJECTION TO THE FBI RELEASING TO SSC THE MATERIAL EMANATING FROM DCPSD AND CONTAINED IN THIS AIRTEL WHICH WOULD DISCLOSE THE DCPSD USED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCES IN THEIR COVERAGE OF KING.

END PAGE ONE

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84 OCT 16 1975

b7(c) [REDACTED] ADVISED THE DCPSD HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THE FBI
RELEASING THIS INFORMATION TO THE SSC. HE SAID THEY WOULD
HAVE TO SEARCH THEIR RECORDS TO DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION
THEY HAVE ON KING AND THAT ANY REQUEST FOR THIS INFORMATION
BY SSC WOULD HAVE TO BE IN THE FORM OF A SUBPOENA.

b7(c) [REDACTED], DIRECTOR, DCPSD, WHO IS ON VACATION,
WAS INITIALLY CONTACTED IN THIS MATTER BY SAC JULIUS L.
MATSON AND MADE AWARE OF THE REQUEST BY SSC.

EID

VLN FBIHQ CCLR

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CODE

TELETYPE

1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
URGENT

TO SACS MIAMI
NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 5, 1975

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (62-116395)

1 - Mr. W. O. Crozier ^{b7(c)}

SENSTUDY 75, BUDED SEPTEMBER 8, 1975.

1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. J. T. Aldhizer

REMMAIRTEL MAY 23, 1966, NYAIRTELS MAY 18, 1965, MAY 28, 1965, AND NYLET JULY 29, 1965, ALL CAPTIONED "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SECURITY MATTER - C," MIAMI FILE 100-15079, NEW YORK FILE 100-138585.

THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE (SSC) HAS REQUESTED ACCESS TO ALL MEMORANDA AND OTHER MATERIALS WHICH RELATE TO ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING BY STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES OR GOVERNMENTS.

REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS INDICATE THAT THE DADE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MIAMI, FLORIDA, AND THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT USED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT IN THEIR COVERAGE OF DR. KING.

IN ORDER FOR FBIHQ TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE SSC REQUEST IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR MIAMI AND NEW YORK TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE DADE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ADVISE THEM OF THE SSC

1 - 100-106670 (King)

JTA:pal/dsh
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DATE 2-23-81 BY SP4/AM/ML

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

100-106670-

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16 SEP 10 1975

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DUPLICATE YELLOW
OF WIRE TRANSMITTED

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PAGE TWO 62-116395

REQUEST. SECURE THEIR COMMENTS RELATIVE TO: (1) WHETHER THEY HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO OUR RELEASING TO SSC THE MATERIAL FROM THEM CONTAINED IN REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS, WHICH WOULD DISCLOSE THAT THEY USED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCES IN THEIR COVERAGE OF KING. THEY SHOULD BE APPRISED OF THE FACT EVEN IF FBIHQ DOES NOT VOLUNTARILY SUPPLY REQUESTED INFORMATION, SSC MAY SUBPOENA FBI RECORDS.

EXPEDITE AND SUBMIT BY TELETYPE IN THE ABOVE CAPTION, ATTENTION INTD, W. O. CREGAR, BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 8, 1975.

END

NOTE:

Pursuant to a request from the Senate Select Committee (SSC), Bureau files were reviewed and specific information pertinent to the above question was discovered.

Communications from New York and Miami disclose that both the Dade County Sheriff's Office and New York City Police Department used electronic surveillance equipment in their coverage of Martin Luther King.

Headquarters considers it appropriate and necessary to have New York and Miami contact the local agencies involved for their position regarding possible disclosure and release of information pertaining to their electronic surveillance coverage of King to the SSC.

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1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Wannall
1 - Mr. W.O. Cregar

CODE TELETYPE

1 - Mr. Deegan b7(c)
1 - Mr. Nugent
JULY 25, 1975

TO SAC, ATLANTA
FROM DIRECTOR, FBI (62-116395)
SENSTUDY '75, BUDED: 7/31/75.

FBIHQ IS PRESENTLY COMPILING PERTINENT DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO CAPTIONED MATTER AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES (SSC).

INCLUDED IN THE SSC'S REQUEST IS ONE CONCERNING ALL MEMORANDA AND ANY OTHER MATERIALS INDICATING OR REFLECTING THE INCEPTION OF (A) ALL HEADQUARTERS FILES AND (B) ALL ATLANTA DIVISION FILES CONCERNING MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ORGANIZATIONAL FILE CAPTIONED "COMINFIL OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE," (SCLC), TOGETHER WITH THE BASIS AND AUTHORITY FOR OPENING SUCH FILES.

SSC STAFF PERSONNEL HAVE ADVISED THE ABOVE REQUEST REFERS NOT ONLY TO COMMUNICATIONS WHICH INITIATED ACTIVE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND THE SCLC, BUT SHOULD INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS, WHETHER THEY BE OFFICE MEMORANDA OR OTHER MATERIALS (I.E.,

PEN: adn/tdp

(9)

1 - 100-106670 (KING)
1 - 100-438794 (SCLC)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

100-106670-
DUPLICATION

OF WIRE TRANSMISSIONS

NOT RECORDED

46 JUL 31 1975

54688 180514 73518
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE TWO

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS) WHICH FORMED THE BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THESE FILES PRIOR TO THE TIME ACTIVE INVESTIGATION WAS INITIATED.

ATLANTA DIVISION PROMPTLY REVIEW ABOVE MATTERS AND FURNISH FBIHQ WITH THREE CLEAR XEROXES OF ITEMS WHICH ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE SSC'S REQUEST. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE XEROXED AS THEY APPEAR IN YOUR FILES. ANY EXCISIONS OF DATA APPEARING THEREIN WILL BE HANDLED BY FBIHQ PRIOR TO THE TIME THESE MATERIALS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SSC.

IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO FURNISH HEADQUARTERS WITH COPIES OF ANY INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE TO INSTITUTING ACTIVE INVESTIGATION IN THESE CASES WHICH EMANATED FROM FBIHQ. WHERE SUCH IS THE CASE A SIMPLE STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT SHOULD BE MADE AND THE DATE AND CAPTION OF THE HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE FURNISHED.

EXPEDITE AND SUBMIT BY COVER AIRTEL IN ABOVE CAPTION BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS 7/31/75.

NOTE:

Teletype being directed to the AT Division to obtain information which is responsive to a request by the Senate Select Committee. Bureau deadline deemed necessary in view of request by this Committee.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
- 1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. D. Ryan

TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall

DATE: 7/18/75

FROM : J. G. Deegan *JGD*

- 1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
- 1 - Mr. H. A. Newman

SUBJECT: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. *WRA*
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

During a conference on 7/16/75 between the Assistant Attorney General, J. Stanley Pottinger, and his staff and the Director of the FBI and his staff, a question arose concerning Martin Luther King's alleged moving from one hotel or motel to another hotel or motel in Memphis, Tennessee, prior to his murder on 4/4/68.

Attached is a letterhead memorandum (LHM) setting forth an inquiry including a review of all appropriate Bureau files regarding a proposal made in memorandum G. C. Moore to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated 3/29/68 in connection with the counterintelligence program wherein it was recommended that information be made available to a cooperative news media source showing King to be a hypocrite. This was to be based on the fact that when violence broke out during a march led by King in Memphis, Tennessee, on 3/28/68, he disappeared. There was a first class Negro hotel in Memphis, the Hotel Lorraine, but King chose to hide out in a white owned and operated Holiday Inn Motel (also known as the Rivermont Motel). The LHM will reflect and document the fact that although a notation appears on the memorandum that it was "handled" there is no information available to reflect that it was ever actually given to a cooperative news source. *b7c*

[Redacted] (retired), who placed the notation "handled" on the document, absolutely has no recollection of this matter nor can he state whether or not the information was disseminated.

The time elements as documented in this LHM would preclude the proposal contained in the 3/29/68 memorandum of having any affect upon King's choice of a motel in which to reside.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached LHM along with attachments be disseminated to the Department.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-20-81 BY SPY/EM/AL

6076

REC-88

100-106670-391

JUL 29 1975

HN

OKY nrc

gma

5-2477A
Delivered 7/2
to Pottinger's
office
P-1

HAN:cah (6)

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-20-81 BY SP-4 JEM/ld
6076

- 1 - J. B. Adams
- 1 - W. R. Wannall
- 1 - D. Ryan
- 1 - J. G. Deegan

REC-88

44-100-106670-3965 July 18, 1975

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 1 - H. A. Newman

The following information is submitted regarding the background leading up to the proposed action recommended in memorandum G. C. Moore to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated March 29, 1968, captioned "Counterintelligence Program, Black Nationalist-Hate Groups, Racial Intelligence, (Martin Luther King)."

(copy attached)
This memorandum recommended that information be furnished to a cooperative news media source by the Crime Records Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) showing King as a hypocrite. This was to be based on the fact that when violence broke out during a march led by King in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 28, 1968, he disappeared. There was a first class Negro hotel in Memphis, the Hotel Lorraine, but King chose to hide out in a white owned and operated Holiday Inn Motel (also known as the Rivermont Motel).

b7(c)

A notation on the above referred to memorandum indicated that the recommendation was "handled" on April 3, 1968, by [redacted] of the Crime Records Division. (see notation on memorandum dated March 29, 1968, attached)

By way of background it should be noted that at about 6 p.m. on April 4, 1968, while standing on second floor balcony outside room 306 of the Hotel Lorraine, Memphis, Tennessee, King was shot and killed.

Memphis teletype dated April 2, 1968, reflects that King and other Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) officials were due to arrive in Memphis at 10:15 a.m. on April 3, 1968, via Eastern Airlines from Atlanta. (copy of Memphis teletype dated April 2, 1968, attached)

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:

- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____

After King's death, an interview with Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, a close associate of King, reflected that he and King registered into the Hotel Lorraine in Memphis,

SEE NOTE PAGE 3

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

84 AUG 5 1975

TELETYPE UNIT

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tennessee, at about 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968. (Information contained in report of SA Joe C. Hester dated April 17, 1968, Memphis, captioned "UNSUB, aka, Eric Starvo Galt, et al., Civil Rights" page 48. See attached FD-302 reflecting interview with Reverend Ralph David Abernathy).

For further background regarding the basis of this proposal Atlanta teletype dated March 28, 1968, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., SM-C" with second caption "Sanitation Workers Strike, Memphis, Tennessee, Racial Matters" reflects that on March 28, 1968, King and other SCLC people were in room 801, Holiday Inn, Memphis, Tennessee, at 4:30 p.m. (copy of Atlanta teletype attached)

A Memphis teletype dated March 29, 1968, captioned "Sanitation Workers Strike, Memphis, Tennessee, Racial Matters" reflects that King participated in the march of sanitation workers on March 28, 1968. When violence erupted including the breaking of windows and looting by the marchers, King and a few associates ran to a nearby car and left the march proceeding to Rivermont Motel where they remained through the afternoon and evening. (copy of Memphis teletype attached)

On July 17, 1975, [REDACTED] after b7(c) having had all the facts set out above reviewed with him including the fact his notation of "handled" appeared on the March 29, 1968, memorandum, advised that he has absolutely no recollection of this memorandum and can unhesitantly state that he cannot now recall whether or not proposed information was ever disseminated to any news media source. He indicated that his notation "handled" would not necessarily mean that he did disseminate this information. In explaining this he stated that the notation could mean that he was merely clearing this document through Crime Records Division and at this late date there would be absolutely no way that he could make any positive statements as to whether or not the information recommended was ever disseminated to a news media source.

From the above recorded sequence of events as reflected in various communications identified above, it is evident that King returned to Memphis, Tennessee, from Atlanta

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

on April 3, 1968, and checked into the Hotel Lorraine at approximately 10:30 a.m. The notation indicating that the proposed furnishing of information to the news media was "handled" on April 3, 1968, would, of course, preclude any such information from appearing in the press prior to King's checking into the Hotel Lorraine at approximately 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968.

A review of appropriate files maintained at FBI Headquarters fails to reflect any newspaper article which could have been an outgrowth of the proposed recommendation contained in the G. C. Moore memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated March 29, 1968.

7/18/75 Deegan
A review of the "Memphis Commercial Appeal" for the period March 28 to April 4, 1968, maintained on microfilm in the Library of Congress failed to reflect any article which would appear to be an outgrowth of the proposed recommendation contained in G. C. Moore memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated March 29, 1968. References were noted indicating that King held a press conference at the Holiday Inn Rivermont Motel on March 29, 1968.

Enclosures (5)

NOTE:

See memorandum J. G. Deegan to Mr. W. R. Wannall, dated 7/18/75, captioned as above, prepared by HAN/cah.

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: March 29, 1968

FROM : G. C. Moore *he*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-20-81 BY SP4 JEN/ML

Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

SUBJECT: COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST - HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE
(MARTIN LUTHER KING)

6070
John
Lyfey
Baugh

PURPOSE:

To publicize hypocrisy on the part of Martin Luther King.

BACKGROUND:

Martin Luther King has urged Negroes in Memphis, Tennessee, to boycott white merchants in order to force compliance with Negro demands in the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis.

When violence broke out during the march King led in Memphis on 3-28-68, King disappeared. There is a first class Negro hotel in Memphis, the Hotel Lorraine, but King chose to hide out at the white owned and operated Holiday Inn Motel.

RECOMMENDATION:

The above facts have been included in the attached blind memorandum and it is recommended it be furnished a cooperative news media source by the Crime Records Division for an item showing King is a hypocrite. This will be done on a highly confidential basis.

Enclosure

TJD:ted
(7)

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. D. Ryan (Mass Media)
- 1 - Mr. T. J. Deakin

REC-20
W.C.
93
22 MAR 11 1968
DeLoach

Handled 4/3/68
106670-3965
100-111001-02

March 29, 1968

DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO

Martin Luther King, during the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, Tennessee, has urged Negroes to boycott downtown white merchants to achieve Negro demands. On 3-29-68 King led a march for the sanitation workers. Like Judas leading lambs to slaughter King led the marchers to violence, and when the violence broke out, King disappeared.

The fine Hotel Lorraine in Memphis is owned and patronized exclusively by Negroes but King didn't go there from his hasty exit. Instead King decided the plush Holiday Inn Motel, white owned, operated and almost exclusively white patronized, was the place to "cool it." There will be no boycott of white merchants for King, only for his followers.

100-101 006-93
ENCLOSURE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MEMPHIS

430PM URGENT 4-2-68 SAB

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS 157-1092 3P

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENN., *RACIAL MATTER*

Mr. Moore
Tolson

POLICE DEPARTMENT
 ON APRIL TWO, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, LT. E. H. ARKIN, MEMPHIS
 PD, INSPECTIONAL BUREAU, ADVISED THAT THE FUNERAL OF LARRY PAYNE,
 SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD NEGRO WHO WAS SHOT BY MEMPHIS PD OFFICER
 AFTER STORE LOOTING GROWING OUT OF MARCH TWENTY EIGHT RACIAL
 DISTURBANCE, MEMPHIS, WAS HELD, WITHOUT INCIDENT, AT CLAYBORN
 TEMPLE, MEMPHIS. ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED IN ATTENDANCE DESPITE FACT
 CHURCH CAN SEAT TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED. BODY INTERRED IMMEDIATELY
 AFTER FUNERAL. ARKIN ADVISED THAT ANOTHER SANITATION
 WORKERS SYMPATHY MARCH IS SCHEDULED FOR DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS AFTERNOON
 OF APRIL TWO.

Robt. J. ...
D. ...
...

100-106670-

NOT RECORDED

EASTERN AIRLINES ADVISED ON APRIL TWO THAT REV. MARTIN LUTHER
 KING, JR., AND SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) AIDES
 RALPH D. ABERNATHY, BERNARD LEE, AND ANDREW M. YOUNG DUE TO ARRIVE
 MEMPHIS TEN FIFTEEN A.M., APRIL THREE, FROM ATLANTA.

END PAGE ONE

Albert C. Hayden
J.D. ...
...

1 APR 5 1968

Included ... letter to White House
and Attorney General. Date *4-3-68*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *2-20-81* BY *SP4 JRM/...*

6076

30 1210
...

ON APRIL TWO A SOURCE ADVISED THAT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT CLAYBORN TEMPLE, APRIL TWO, REV. JESSE JACKSON OF SCLC'S "OPERATION BREAD BASKET," REV. S. B. KYLES OF METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH, MEMPHIS, AND REV. EDWARD L. BROWN, MT. PISGAH CME CHURCH, ADVISED THAT WITH SCLC PERSONNEL IN MEMPHIS THAT NIGHTLY MASS STRIKE SUPPORT MEETINGS WILL BE RESUMED, THE FIRST AT MASON TEMPLE ON NIGHT OF APRIL THREE WITH KING AS FEATURED SPEAKER. THEY SAID MASS MARCH WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, APRIL FIVE, AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE SCHOOL CHILDREN PARTICIPATE SINCE MARCHING WITH "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THE GREATEST LIVING AMERICAN," WOULD BE MORE EDUCATIONAL THAN BEING IN SCHOOL. WHEN ASKED BY PRESS IF KING WOULD PERSONALLY MARCH, JACKSON SAID KING MIGHT NOT MARCH. HE DID NOT ELABORATE. WHEN ASKED IF SCLC GROUP WOULD VIOLATE A POSSIBLE INJUNCTION AGAINST THEIR MARCHING, JACKSON SAID "THE WHITE MAN HAS ALREADY ENJOINED THE BLACK MAN TO THE GHETTO AND THE WHITE MAN DOESN'T NEED TO VALIDATE IT BY SENDING US A PIECE OF PAPER." KYLES SAID THE PROBLEM FACING MEMPHIS IS NOT MILITANT BLACK YOUTH BUT IS "WHITE RACISM." JACKSON DESCRIBED OPERATION BREAD BASKET AS MASSIVE

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

DRIVE TO FORCE ALL GROCERS IN NEGRO AREA TO CEASE SELLING HART'S BREAD, WONDER BREAD, COCA COLA, AND SEALTEST DAIRY PRODUCTS AS THESE FIRMS DO NOT HIRE SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF NEGROES.

ON APRIL TWO LT. ARKIN ADVISED THAT MEMPHIS CITY OFFICIALS ARE CONSIDERING SEEKING A COURT INJUNCTION PROHIBITING ANY MASS MARCH LED BY KING OR AN INJUNCTION SPECIFYING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A MARCH COULD TAKE PLACE AND ALSO CONSIDERING RESUMPTION OF A CURFEW AND PLACING STRIKE SUPPORT LEADERS UNDER A PEACE AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BOND.

ARKIN ADVISED THAT REMAINDER OF TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD, WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE BATTERY CONSISTING OF TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY THREE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE MEMPHIS GUARD UNIT. HAVE LEFT MEMPHIS.

AT THREE ZERO FIVE PM, SIXTY SANITATION WORKERS AND SYMPATHIZERS DEPARTED CLAYBORN TEMPLE CARRYING PLACARDS FOLLOWING THEIR USUAL PARADE MARCH TO BEALE STREET NORTH ON MAIN TO CITY HALL. NO INCIDENTS REPORTED.

memo
FOLLOWS. P. END.

CAC

FBI WASH DC

P

APR 2 1968
FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Ralph B. Abernathy Date April 8, 1968

Reverend RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, 690 La Verne Drive, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department at 10:55 p.m., April 4, 1968. Reverend ABERNATHY was advised of the Agent's identity and of the nature of the matter under investigation.

Reverend ABERNATHY, who described himself as Vice President at Large and Treasurer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, stated he was Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s closest associate and stated that he and Dr. KING always shared a room whenever they travelled together. He stated that at about 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968, he and Dr. KING registered at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee.

Reverend ABERNATHY stated that on April 4, 1968, he and Dr. KING did not leave the motel and spent most of the day in their room, #306, which is located on the second floor of the motel. He stated that he and Dr. KING had been gone from their room for approximately one hour or less when they returned to the room at about 5:30 p.m. He said they got dressed as they were going to dinner at the home of Reverend BILLY KYLE and that at almost exactly 6 p.m. they started to leave the room. Reverend ABERNATHY stopped for a moment and Dr. KING walked out onto the balcony just outside the door to his room. Reverend ABERNATHY was still inside the motel room but could hear Dr. KING discussing the dinner engagement with other associates who Reverend ABERNATHY believes were standing in the parking area of the motel underneath and to the front of the balcony on which Dr. KING was standing.

Reverend ABERNATHY stated he heard what sounded like a firecracker and then heard the screams of persons to whom Dr. KING had been talking. Reverend ABERNATHY went then to the balcony and discovered Dr. KING lying there wounded in the right side of the face and neck. He said he believed Dr. KING attempted to speak to him but was unable to do so. Reverend ABERNATHY said he instructed someone to call an ambulance and then accompanied Dr. KING in the ambulance to the hospital where Dr. KING subsequently died.

48

On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA JOE C. HESTER: bn Date dictated 4/8/68

2

ME #44-1897

Reverend ABERNATHY stated that judging from the sound of the noise it appeared that the shot came from directly in front of the door and not from any great distance. He stated he did not observe anything that would indicate who fired the shot. Reverend ABERNATHY also stated that while they were in the motel room Dr. KING did not, to his knowledge, receive any telephone calls of a threatening nature or calls from persons who would not identify themselves. Reverend ABERNATHY said Dr. KING had not feared that any particular persons might harm him and Reverend ABERNATHY was unable to suggest any suspects or to provide any other information which might assist in identifying Dr. KING's killer.

CONFIDENTIAL

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Bishop
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

8/8

*Robbie
Tolson*

H.C. P. Case

D. Miller

11:17PM URGENT 3-28-68 ARK
TO DIRECTOR (102-106670) AND MEMPHIS
FROM ATLANTA (100-5586)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM-C.

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. RM.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] .c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] .c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] .c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Robert

ls

bu

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

XEROX 1968

APR 15 1968

EX-115

REC-9

102-106670-3278

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY *SP-42 M. W. a.* APR 8 1968

REASON FOR EXTENSION *2*

FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION *3-28-88*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] c.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b(1)

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[REDACTED] c.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] c.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE THREE

FOREGOING INFORMATION TELEPHONICALLY FURNISHED MEMPHIS MARCH
TWENTYEIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT.

RECEIVED: 11:39PM RM

~~INITIALS~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI WASH DC

MAR 29 1968

Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FBI MEMPHIS

1256AM URGENT 3-29-68 DGB

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS (157-1094)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-20-81 BY SP4 JAM/ll

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ⁶⁰⁷⁶ RACIAL MATTER

RE MEMPHIS TELS, MARCH TWENTY EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT.
 FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MARCH TWENTY EIGHT ACTIVITIES;
 ON MARCH TWENTY EIGHT, LT. E. H. ARKIN, INSPECTIONAL BUREAU,
 MEMPHIS POLICE DEPT., ADVISED THAT THE MASS MARCH TO BE LED BY
 REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN SUPPORT OF SANITATION WORKERS
 STARTED AT AROUND ELEVEN AM CST WITH ESTIMATED FIVE TO SIX
 THOUSAND WORKERS, MANY OF WHOM WERE NEGRO TEENAGERS. MARCH
 STARTED AT CLAYBORN TEMPLE, LOCATED HEART OF NEGRO AREA, AND
 KING JOINED MARCH AFTER IT PROGRESSED ONE BLOCK. HE WALKED WITH
 MARCHERS TO VICINITY BEALE AND MAIN STREETS, MADE NO SPEECHES
 PRIOR TO MARCH, MADE NO KNOWN UTTERANCES DURING MARCH, AND BY
 TIME HE REACHED ABOVE POINT RAMPANT BREAKING OF STORE WINDOWS
 AND LOOTING WAS BEING PERPETRATED BY MARCHERS, WHEREUPON KING
 AND A FEW ASSOCIATES RAN TO A NEARBY CAR AND LEFT MARCH, PROCEEDED
 TO RIVERMONT MOTEL WHERE THEY REMAINED THROUGH AFTERNOON AND
 EVENING. BY NOON, POLICE HAD BROKEN UP CROWD, BEING FORCED TO USE
 TEAR GAS, BUT SPORADIC LOOTING WAS CONTINUED THROUGH AFTERNOON

6076
6 P. C. [unclear]
T. J. [unclear]
R. King

APR 4 1968

100 110 11
100 A (97)
Included in letter to White House
and Attorney General. Date 2/29/81

NOT RECORDED
162-APR 4 1968

70 APR 12 1968

PAGE TWO

AND EVENING, PRIMARILY CONFINED TO SOUTH CENTRAL AREA ^{OF} MEMPHIS,
A PREDOMINANTLY NEGRO AREA, ^R PRIMARY TARGET OF LOOTERS BEING
LIQUOR STORES AND SMALL GROCERIES.

TENNESSEE STATE LEGISLATURE TODAY PASSED CURFEW BILL, WHICH
WAS INVOKED BY MEMPHIS MAYOR HENRY LOEB, EFFECTIVE SEVEN PM,
AND THIRTY FIVE HUNDRED TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN FROM MEMPHIS
AND WEST TENNESSEE ARE CURRENTLY ON DUTY IN MEMPHIS OPERATING AS
TACTICAL UNITS, BEING ACCOMPANIED ON THEIR PATROLS BY REPRESENTATIVES
OF MEMPHIS PD.

SCHEDULED MASS RALLY TO FEATURE ^{ING} KKK NIGHT OF MARCH TWENTY
EIGHT CANCELED. AT TWELVE MIDNIGHT, MARCH TWENTY EIGHT, THREE
HUNDRED ARRESTS, PRIMARILY RELATING TO LOOTING AND CURFEW VIOLATIONS
HAVE BEEN MADE BY POLICE DEPT. FOUR INDIVIDUALS
HAVE BEEN SHOT, ONE OF THESE, A SIXTEEN YEAR OLD BOY, WAS KILLED
IN ACT OF LOOTING A STORE. THREE OTHERS WERE SHOT, TWO BY
POLICE OFFICERS AND ONE BY A STOREKEEPER WHILE LOOTING, NONE
SERIOUSLY INJURED.

AGE THREE

EASTERN AIRLINES ADVISED THAT KING, RALPH ABERNATHY, AND BERNARD LEE, FAILED TO LEAVE MEMPHIS ON EASTERN FLIGHT THREE NINE EIGHT, NINE ZERO FIVE CST, DUE TO ARRIVE ATLANTA ELEVEN ZERO THREE PM EST. THIS ALSO CANCELS KING'S AND LEE'S FLIGHT FROM ATLANTA SIX TWENTY AM MARCH TWENTY NINE DUE TO ARRIVE BALTIMORE SEVEN FORTY TWO AM. INSPECTOR G. P. TINES, MEMPHIS PD, ADVISED KING PLANNING TO STAY IN MEMPHIS AT RIVERMONT HOTEL TONIGHT, FUTURE PLANS UNKNOWN AT PRESENT TIME. P.

~~CORR PAGE TWO, PARA ONE, LINE ONE WORDS EIGHT, NINE, AND TEN~~

~~SHLD BE "AREA OF MEMPHIS" AND LINE TWO, PARA ONE, WORD FIVE SHLD BE "PRIMARY"~~

~~PAGE TWO PARA THREE, LINE ONE WORD SIX SHLD BE "KING" AND LINE THREE WORD THREE SHLD BE "PRIMARILY" AND A PERIOD SHLD BE BETWEEN~~

~~"DEPT. AND FOUR" ON EXXX ON LINE FOUR.~~

~~PAGE TWO PARA ONE LINE THREE WORD ONE SHLD BE "LIQUOR"~~

END.

HFL

FBI WASH DC

P

CP - Ma Trainor

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Date of Mail 6/13/75

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Section.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Removed By 79 JUN 30 1975

File Number 100-106670- ✓

Permanent Serial Charge Out

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-20-81 BY SP4JEM/MLH

June 11, 1975

6076

REC-104

100-186670-3963

[Redacted]

Newark, New Jersey 07104

b7(c)

Dear [Redacted]

This will acknowledge your Freedom of Information Act request dated May 30th.

In response to your request, please be advised that in order to preserve the privacy of all individuals that may be the subject of similar inquiries, it has been necessary for the FBI to maintain the practice of not indicating whether we do or do not have information in our files pertaining to the subject of your inquiry. Concerning your request, the heirs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., hold his right to privacy as well as their own.

In the event you are able to obtain notarized authorization from Dr. King's heirs directing us to release to you any information our files may contain concerning him, we shall thereafter search our files and advise you accordingly.

Since we have not conducted a search of our files, please do not infer that we do or do not have the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

MAILED 7
JUN 12 1975
FBI

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. 1
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

- The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

jwb:clh (5)
[Handwritten initials]

56 JUN 27 1975

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

Rennick

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FOIA UNIT FBI

FROM : Susan M. Hause *SH*
Staff Assistant to the
Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST - [REDACTED]

DATE: June 4, 1975

b7(c)

Enclosed herewith is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, for access to copies of all reports relating to the sex life of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pursuant to 28 CFR §16.5 which took effect on February 19, 1975, the responsible division shall, within ten working days, either comply with or deny a request for records unless unusual circumstances warrant an extension of time.

In cases where additional time is required, extensions shall be granted by the head of the division in increments of five days or less. The requester should be notified of the reasons for the time extension and the date on which a determination is expected.

If the request is denied, the requester should be informed by the head of the responsible division of 1) the exemption(s) authorizing the withholding of the records, 2) how the exemption applies to the record withheld and, where relevant, a brief explanation of why discretionary release is not appropriate, 3) the name and title of the person(s) responsible for the denial, and 4) his right of administrative appeal within 30 days to the Attorney General and the availability of judicial review thereafter.

Copies of all acknowledgements, extension notices, and responses should be forwarded to my office, Room 4212.



5010-110

100-10675-3963
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

ENCLOSURE

63

JUN 3 11 37 AM '75

DEPT. OF JUSTICE NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104
MAIL UNIT

HU 3-1800

b7(c)

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE

JUN 3 2 44 PM '75

DEPUTY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 30, 1975

Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Freedom of Information Act.

Sir:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (as amended), please supply me with copies of all reports about the sex life of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Since Rev. King is dead, there is no invasion of his privacy.

Sincerely yours,

b7(c)

[Redacted signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-20-81 BY SP4 JRM/ML

6074

ack:
jwb/clh
6-11-75

REC-104

100-10667030

JUN 13 1975

ENCLOSURE

4-RB
[Signature]

[Signature]

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June 3, 1975

AIRMAIL

EX-101

100-106670-3968

REC-37

[Redacted] Paris
France

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-20-81 BY SP4 JRM/LL

b7(c)
[Handwritten initials]

Dear [Redacted]

Your recent letter, with enclosure, was received on May 19th.

6076

In response to your request for data in our files concerning Dr. Martin Luther King, please be advised that in order to preserve the privacy of all individuals who may be the subject of similar requests, it has been necessary for the FBI to maintain the practice of not indicating whether we do or do not have information in our files pertaining to a particular individual. The revelation that a name does or does not appear in an investigatory file could interfere with the ability of the FBI to carry out its investigative functions by possibly indicating the nature of an investigation or the names of the informants or subjects.

MAILED 7
JUN 3 1975
FBI

For your information in the event you are able to obtain a notarized authorization letter from Dr. King's widow granting her approval to release any information we might be able to furnish you regarding her late husband, a search of our central records will then be conducted. Submission of this letter should not be interpreted as a guarantee that you will be furnished all of the material, if any, you

requested; however, upon receipt of this document, your request will be handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552.

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Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

11k:ms (5)

NOTE NEXT PAGE

[Handwritten initials and signatures]

Alan

[Handwritten initials]

JUN 19 1975
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

~~100-106670-3968~~

[REDACTED]

b7(c)

With respect to your request to meet with FBI officials who played a part in the civil rights movement to obtain their views and comments in this regard, I regret that this will not be possible in view of the confidential nature of our investigations and the pressure of official business.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Last paragraph of reply coordinated with SA [REDACTED] of the General Investigative Division.

b7(c)

May 15,

1975

b7(c)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Paris
France

to:

The Honorable Clarence Kelley
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

I am an Assistant-Professor with the Université de Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle. Over the past years, I have been engaged in research on the late Dr Martin Luther King, working towards a French "Thèse de Doctorat d'Etat". Thanks to the assistance of the American Council of Learned Societies, I shall spend the Summer in the United States, pursuing my research.

It is my understanding that the recent "Freedom of Information Act" has made some of the F.B.I. files accessible to scholars for research purposes. I would therefore be most thankful if you could allow me to peruse the files the Bureau has on Dr King. I would also very much like to meet with F.B.I. officials who had to play a part in the Civil Rights Movement, in order to have their views and comments on what happened.

As proof of my quality, I enclose a photostat of the A.C.L.S. letter notifying me of their grant. I shall be at your disposal for further information, if necessary,

Would you kindly send the reply to my home address at your early convenience.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

b7(c)

ack
6/2/75
HKms
ENCLOSURE

REC-37

101

100-106670-3962

6-4
MAY 19 1975

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2-20-81 BY SP-4 JRM/ML
6076 ST-108

May 27, 1975

REC-23

100-106670-3961

Honorable Stuart Symington
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Symington:

I have received your communication of May 19th,
with enclosure, regarding information in our files con-
cerning the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. With regard to
your request, it is our position not to comment to third
parties regarding any records we may have, as to do so would
constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy
of Dr. King's heirs.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

- 1 - Kansas City - Enclosures (2)
- 1 - St. Louis - Enclosures (2)
- 1 - Legal Analysis Office - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Constituent is anonymous. Response coordinated
with Division 11, FOIA Unit.

WPH:rcl (8)

RECORDS SECTION

MAILED 7
MAY 27 1975
FBI

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
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- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
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- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

51 JUN 1 1975

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Return to...

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Plan. & Eval.	_____
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Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

May 19, 1975

United States Senate

We would appreciate any comment you would care to make on the attached letter which is representative of several we have received about alleged FBI records on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Respectfully referred to

Mr. Clarence Kelley, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

for such consideration as the communication herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of ~~enclosure~~ enclosure.

By direction of

ST-108 - fed
100-1010670-3961
U. S. S.
Stuart Symington

GPO 16-72874

100-1010670-3961

22 MAY 20 1975

2
ENCLOSURE

CORRESPONDENCE

EXP. PROC.
40 MAY 20 1975

27
25
LIFT

April 24, 1975

Senator Stuart Symington
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Symington:

I am shocked by the resolution of the Senate to honor Martin Luther King, and make a National Holiday of his birthday. The FBI records show that Mr. King was a professional agitator who deliberately increased racial strife injuring both negroes and white people. He used known Communist agents as his closest advisors, including his secretary, Bayard Rustin (an identified Communist), and he raised large amounts of money for the Communist Party.

I oppose this proposal and would like to know what stand you have taken on it. Thank you.

ENCLOSURE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

REC-46

TO : Mr. Jenkins

DATE: 3/7/75

FROM : D. W. Moore, Jr.

SUBJECT: NICK HORROCK, REPORTER
NEWYORK TIMES, WASHINGTON, D. C.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
MARTIN LUTHER KING

- Assoc. Dir.
- Dep. AD Adm.
- Dep. AD Inv.
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm.
- Comp. Syst.
- Ext. Affairs
- Files & Com.
- Gen. Inv.
- Ident.
- Inspection
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Plan. & Eval.
- Spec. Inv.
- Training
- Off. Coun.
- Telephone Rm.
- Director Sec'y

Nick Horrock, reporter, "New York Times", Washington, D. C., contacted my office this date to advise that the "New York Times" would publish a story about Martin Luther King and the Bureau's COINTELPRO in their Sunday paper 3/9/75.

He advised that they had information that in the fall of 1963, the Bureau had a national security electronic surveillance approved by President Kennedy on Martin Luther King's room at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D. C., and that this electronic surveillance produced information of an embarrassing nature concerning King. He further advised that in the fall of 1964, King was critical of former Director J. Edgar Hoover for having too many southern Agents in the south investigating civil rights cases and this criticism upset Hoover. He said Hoover had the Bureau Laboratory make a copy of the above tape on King in a way that it could not be traced and that Hoover sent a Division 5 Agent to Tampa, Florida, with this tape in an unmarked package and that the Agent mailed this tape from Tampa, Florida, to Mrs. King in Atlanta, Georgia. He advised that the "Times" has spoken to Mrs. King and she acknowledged receiving this tape.

Horrock stated that one of the Department of Justice sources has claimed that this information is contained in Henry Peterson's report on COINTEL. He also furnished information on the following items that will appear in their story.

- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. Bassett
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Malmfeldt
- 1 - Mr. Heim

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/28/81 BY SP4 JRM/ma
6026

REC-46
106670 (KINK)
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TJH:sku
(7)

51 MAR 26 1975

MAR 21 1975

MAR 13 1975

UNRECORDED COPY FILED TO

Moore to Jenkins
RE: NICK HORROCK, REPORTER
NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON, D. C.

In 1964, after King had received the Nobel Peace Prize and a banquet was held in Atlanta to honor him, Hoover sent an Agent from Washington to speak to businessmen in Atlanta urging them not to attend.

Hoover had Division 5 prepare a monograph on King's personal life, and furnished copies to White House Officials, Department of Justice Officials and other Government Officials. When former President Kennedy saw this monograph he ordered them all to be destroyed.

A former Bureau Agent in Atlanta has furnished information that he was ordered to obtain handwriting specimens on Andrew Young and Hosea Williams when they were employed by the Southern Christian Leadership Council, so that the Bureau's Laboratory forgery unit could make forged documents on these two men.

Horrock stated that he has checked the Federal Communication Laws (FCC) in 1968, and that it is his understanding that it is a federal violation to furnish information obtained from a wiretap to a third party. He advised he desired to obtain a statement from the Bureau by late today confirming or denying the above actions and whether Mr. Kelley feels there has been violations of a criminal nature involved in the handling of this type of information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In view of the fact that Horrock has put his request in the context of COINTELPRO that the Bureau not comment on Horrock's article and that he be so advised.

2. That the Intelligence Division upon reviewing the contents of this memorandum prepare suitable background material for the Director setting forth the true facts so that the Director will be in a position to respond to inquiries regarding these matters from the Department and Congress.

*Director informed.
Advise "No Comment."*

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]
3/7

TDC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. J. B. Adams

DATE: March 5, 1975

FROM : Legal Counsel *J. B. Adams*

SUBJECT: THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
MARCH 4, 1975

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-20-81 BY *[Signature]*

- Assoc. Dir.
- Dep. AD Adm.
- Dep. AD Inv.
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin.
- Comp. Syst.
- Ext. Affairs
- Files & Com.
- Gen. Inv.
- Ident.
- Inspection
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Plan. & Eval.
- Spec. Inv.
- Training
- Legal Coun.
- Telephone Rm.
- Director Sec'y

SENATE

Page S2991. Senator Bill Brock (R-Tennessee) stated, "I hope the episode in our national history known as the Watergate affair is drawing to a close. The question which remains is, What have we learned? Columnist William Safire has written a remarkable article addressing itself to this question." Mr. Safire's article entitled "How Far Do We Pursue Guilt for Watergate?" is set forth in the Record. This article questioned the cover up of certain information during the Watergate hearings. It goes on to state, "Perhaps now a Congressional committee will look into the surveillance of newsmen by L. B. J.'s Marvin Watson, hinted at and hushed up at the House Judiciary inquiry. Perhaps the American Civil Liberties Union will volunteer to represent Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a lawsuit against the F. B. I. for illegally wiretapping her late husband." Mr. Safire also asked why L. Patrick Gray was not prosecuted for destruction of evidence, why former FBI Agents William Sullivan and Cartha DeLoach were not placed under oath "and asked the kind of question that might embarrass FBI men currently in office." Mr. Safire continued, "Perhaps the nation's interest in the unlawful of the law will wane with the satisfying clank of prison gates behind the four men now pronounced guilty. I hope not. Revelation of embryonic activity in the sixties does not extenuate crimes of more recent vintage, but they will show us how pervasive and dangerous our unconcern has been."

NOT RECORDED
MAR 24 1975

Adjournment: Until Wednesday, March 5, 1975, at 12 noon.

HOUSE

~~MAR 15 1975~~

Page H1374. Congressman Edward I. Koch (D-New York) pointed out that "The amendments to the Freedom of Information Act are

- 1 - Mr. Mintz - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Wannall - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Cleveland - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Walsh - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Malmfeldt - enclosure

ves/ech
(13)

CONTINUED - OVER

54 MAR 26 1975

cc-100-100000 (H.L. King)
66-121 M...
 Return to Rm. 4503

HOUSE - continued

having an effect on some agencies which I believe to be contrary to congressional intent. Under new regulations promulgated by Federal agencies, one type of information that the agencies will be disclosing is correspondence with Members of Congress. I have recently received a letter from the Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation advising me that I could merely telephone their congressional liaison office if I wished to know the status of an application, rather than write a letter to that effect. If I understand the implication correctly, it is his recommendation that if I do not want my inquiry to appear with a given file, - - -. The purpose of my pointing this situation out is to make sure that the intent of the Freedom of Information Act is not evaded by any nonwritten communication to an agency." He included his correspondence with the Chairman of the FDIC.

Adjournment: Until Wednesday, March 5, 1975, at 12 noon.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Page E861. Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D-Colorado) introduced for herself and other Members H. R. 4249, to amend title 5, United States Code, to guarantee to each employee in the competitive service who has completed the probationary or trial period, the right to a hearing, a hearing transcript, and all relevant evidence prior to a final decision of an agency to take certain action against such an employee. Mrs. Schroeder advised that the purpose of this measure "is to guarantee all employees in the competitive service a prompt evidentiary hearing by an impartial individual prior to the time that removal or suspension without pay is effective. - - - As long as Congress continues in its inaction, Federal employees will not be protected against arbitrary and capricious dismissal for speaking out. The public interest and pocketbook are badly served by stifling creative criticism from employees of our Government." A copy of this bill will be obtained.

Page E865. Congressman Joe L. Evins (D-Tennessee) extended his remarks concerning reports of alleged domestic spying activities by the CIA. He stated, "Recently Mr. William Colby, Director of the CIA, testified before a House Appropriations Subcommittee concerning domestic spying and wiretapping. He amended an earlier report filed with the committee to change certain figures with respect to the number of telephone taps, files on public officials, and break-ins. The Nashville Tennessean in a recent editorial emphasized the dangers inherent in CIA activities in this Nation which exceed its statutory authority." The editorial is set forth in the Record.

Memorandum to Mr. Adams
Re: The Congressional Record

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS - continued

Page E868. Congressman Robert E. Bauman (R-Maryland) stated, "As all independent Americans should, the Baltimore News American has taken note of the concern expressed by the Director of the CIA, Mr. William E. Colby, regarding the pending congressional investigations of his and other intelligence agencies. It is my hope that a Congress that was willing to abolish its own investigative unit aimed at subversion, the House Committee on Internal Security, will not now conduct a witch hunt against the agencies of Government who are charged with protecting our Nation." The editorial entitled "A Warning To Heed" from the News American is set forth in the Record.

Pages E881-E882. Congressman John D. Dingell (D-Michigan) placed in the Record an address delivered by Johannes F. Spreen, sheriff of Oakland County, Michigan. Mr. Dingell stated, "His comments effectively lay out the fashion in which the Nation should begin to combat crime. I believe the action suggested by Sheriff Spreen, vigorous enforcement of the law, is far superior to removing firearms from the hands of law-abiding citizens." Sheriff Spreen pointed out that "In 1938, J. Edgar Hoover spoke to the Detroit Economic Club. His subject was 'Lawlessness as a National Menace.' A few days ago Clarence Kelley, the current director of the F. B. I. addressed the Detroit Economic Club on that very same topic, asking the question, 'Can Crime Be Conquered?' Sad, isn't it, that 37 years later the problem still exists, to an even greater degree."

Pages E884-E885. Congressman Michael Harrington (D-Massachusetts) extended his remarks concerning the need for additional gun control laws. He cited FBI statistics regarding murder by guns.

jen

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FBI

Date: 3/11/75

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
FROM SAC, ATLANTA (100-5586)
SUBJECT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTERS - C

DeLoach
Boone

Re Bureau telephone call to Atlanta, 3/10/75.

A review of all pertinent files in the Atlanta Office fails to reveal any information indicating former SA ARTHUR L. MURTAGH was instructed at any time to obtain handwriting samples of HOSEA WILLIAMS. A review of these files also fails to indicate any record that FBI Agents caused false fire alarms or harassing telephone calls to be made with intent toward embarrassing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

As a matter of information, attention is directed to Atlanta airtel to the Director, 4/16/64, captioned "CP, USA, COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM (NEGRO QUESTION) IS-C (Bureau file 100-3-104-34) (Atlanta file 100-6621)" and "CP, USA, NEGRO QUESTION, COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS, IS-C (Bureau file 100-3-116) (Atlanta file 100-6520-D)", which stated in connection with a proposed anonymous letter to be directed to [redacted] care of the SCLC b7(c) Office in New York City, that several sheets of official SCLC stationery were available in the Atlanta Office. No information is available in the files of the Atlanta Office as to the acquisition of this stationery or the disposition of it; however, SCLC stationery was not used in this connection.

② - Bureau
2 - Atlanta

REC-8

100-106670-3953

EX-112

14 MAR 13 1975

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DATE 2-28-81 BY SP4 Jemyl

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Special Agent in Charge

6076

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. JENKINS

DATE: 1/17/75

FROM : J.J. MC DERMOTT *JJM*

SUBJECT: *K* RON KESSLER
WASHINGTON POST
INQUIRY CONCERNING PERSONAL FILES
IN FORMER DIRECTOR HOOVER'S OFFICE *Walt*

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs *✓*
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- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

C.D. DeLoach, Vice President, Corporate Relations, PepsiCo, Purchase, New York, telephonically advised today that captioned individual has called him 3 or 4 times inquiring concerning alleged secret files in the Director's Office and tapes highlighting bedroom conversations of the late Reverend Martin Luther King.

DeLoach advised that he indicated to Kessler that he is sick and tired of false allegations that are being made regarding the Bureau and the late Director Hoover and there certainly must be better things the news media can do than to pursue malicious rumors that have no basis in fact.

DeLoach indicated that he acknowledged to Kessler that there had been tapes on Martin Luther King. He refused to divulge the contents of the tapes and advised Kessler in no uncertain terms that these tapes had never been played for anyone outside of the FBI and that included newsmen and other Government officials. Along this line of questioning, Kessler asked about "pornographic photographs" that the Bureau allegedly had of King which had been offered to newsmen. DeLoach advised Kessler that we never had any photographs of this sort involving King and that if such photographs had existed, he would have known about them.

With regard to the subject of "secret files" in the late Director Hoover's office, DeLoach advised Kessler that in the interest of security, information that might have come to the attention of the Bureau concerning individuals of prominence was maintained in the Director's Office to preclude it being seen and the possible subject of discussion by young, inexperienced and curious file clerks. DeLoach cited, for example, the investigative file on [redacted] in connection with his [redacted] application for the position of Special Agent. DeLoach advised Kessler that the investigation was highly

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. Heim

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RESEARCH SECTION

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McDermott to Mr. Jenkins (cont'd.)
Re: RON KESSLER

favorable, however, when [redacted] rose to prominence, the file was maintained in the Director's Office to insure its security. In response to a direct question by Kessler, DeLoach advised that he was not aware of any file on Eleanor Roosevelt in the Director's Office or anywhere else. b(6)

DeLoach said he emphatically advised Kessler that there were no "secret files" maintained on Senators or Congressmen in Mr. Hoover's office and pointed out to Kessler that he (Kessler) must have better things to do than to pursue a matter as ridiculous as this.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

TJ
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9th

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Jenkins

DATE: 1/15/75

FROM : J. J. McDermott *JJM*

SUBJECT: JOHN BARRON
READER'S DIGEST
INQUIRY BY RON KESSLER
WASHINGTON POST

Admin.	_____
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Director Sec'y	_____

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DATE 2-20-81 BY SP4JRM/ld

607p

John Barron of Reader's Digest called Quinn in my office at 2 p. m. 1/15/75, to advise that he had just gotten off the phone with Ron Kessler of the "Washington Post" and that Kessler asked him if he (Barron) had ever been offered tapes reflecting bedroom conversations of the late Reverend Martin Luther King by the FBI. Barron indicated that he advised Kessler that approximately 10 years ago, while he (Barron) was associated with the "Washington Star" there were rumors that the FBI had tapes on Martin Luther King of this nature and that he had contacted the Bureau regarding this rumor and, in this regard, specifically contacted then Assistant to the Director C. D. DeLoach. According to Barron, DeLoach advised him that he would "neither acknowledge nor deny" that such tapes existed and refused to make any further comment regarding this matter. Barron said he advised Kessler that no tapes were ever played for him and that he (Barron) was never able to determine whether or not such tapes did exist.

Barron advised that a few years ago one Robert Sherrill, at a seminar on the FBI, alleged that the late Director Hoover had the editors of Reader's Digest into his office and that he (Hoover) had played tapes for these editors which reflected bedroom conversations of Martin Luther King.

Barron said that it was a fact that he and several other Reader's Digest officials had visited Mr. Hoover's office as Sherrill had alleged for the purpose of discussing doing a book on the FBI's civil rights activities in the south, a project which was later undertaken by Don Whitehead entitled "Attack on Terror." Barron advised that the only mention made of Martin Luther King on that occasion was regarding King's visit to Mr. Hoover's office in connection with which Hoover had indicated that he had refused to be "photographed with King." Barron said there was no mention of tapes, immoral activities on the part of King, and no tapes were played for the Reader's

- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. Heim
- GDJ:ess (7)

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McDermott to Jenkins memorandum
Re: John Barron

Digest people then or on any other occasion. Barron indicated that he was responsible for preparing a written denial of Sherrill's aforementioned allegation.

Barron indicated that from his brief conversation with Kessler it is clear to him that Kessler is preparing a story alleging that the FBI deals in smut and "peddles derogatory information."

Barron indicated that he advised Kessler that he considered himself a rather thorough reporter when he was with the "Star" and despite exhaustive efforts on his part, he was never able to locate anyone who could acknowledge tapes on King existed, no less locate anyone who might have heard the tapes. Barron advised that he intends to telephone Mr. DeLoach at Purchase, New York to advise him of his conversation with Kessler since he anticipates that Kessler may very well call Mr. DeLoach also.

Barron was advised that we were deeply grateful for his thoughtfulness in calling.

You will recall, of course, that Barron has been associated with Reader's Digest for many years, following a stint with the "Washington Star" and is the author of the book "KGB."

It is noted that Robert Sherrill, a journalist who has a reputation for muckraking, in his paper "The Selling of the FBI," which he read at the Princeton conference sponsored by the Committee For Public Justice in October, 1971, alleged that "During the period when Hoover was leaking information about the Martin Luther King hotel room tapes, a group of Reader's Digest editors visited him in Washington and he entertained them not only with a rendition of the hotel tapes but also with tapes of Mrs. King's reaction. (The FBI, which had sent her a copy of the tapes, was apparently able to record the reaction via a bug.)" "The Washington Evening Star" reported this allegation of Sherrill's in an article by Jeremiah O'Leary in the 10/30/71 issue of that newspaper. The article convincingly concluded that the Sherrill "story" could not be substantiated, citing 1) Sherrill's refusal to identify his source, 2) the FBI's denial that any of the King tapes were played for "Digest" editors, 3) a statement by a Reader's Digest spokesman that the charges were "wholly false" and 4) a statement by a spokesman for Mrs. King in Atlanta that she

McDevitt to Jenkins memorandum
Re: John Barron

"has no knowledge of these tapes" and knows only of alleged tapes concerning her late husband through newspaper accounts concerning them.

Consistent with the paper he submitted, Sherrill went on to make a number of equally erroneous but less spectacular charges against the FBI, the sum total of which was that in "...the most successful job of salesmanship in the history of Western bureaucracy," FBI public relations had created the Director as the "Perfect Image" in the mind of "mon-and-Dad" America.

RECOMMENDATION

For information.

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February 3, 1975

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DATE 2-20-81 BY SP4/amld

6076

[Redacted]

Maine 04538

Dear [Redacted]

In response to your request of January 24th for data concerning Martin Luther King, Jr., please be advised that in order to preserve the privacy of all individuals and/or organizations that may be the subject of such inquiry, it has been necessary for the FBI to maintain the practice of not indicating whether we do or do not have information in our files pertaining to the subject of the inquiry. The revelation that such information does or does not appear in an investigatory file could interfere with the ability of the FBI to carry out its investigative functions by possibly indicating the nature of an investigation or the names of informants or subjects.

In view of the above, I am sure you will understand why it is not possible to comply with your request.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

MAILED 7
FEB 4 1975
FBI

1 - Boston - Enclosure

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent.

WPH:dsh (4)

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- Director Sec'y _____

[Redacted]

Maine 04538 b7(c)

January 24, 1975

Mr. Clarence Kelley
F. B. I. Director
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I'm sorry that I feel it necessary to write the following, but I think I should do so in an effort to clear the name of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in this vicinity.

I am the Chaplain of [Redacted] b7(c)
 [Redacted] a Senior Citizen group of both sexes. We have a membership of about 80 members. We meet on a weekly basis every Tuesday morning. Last Tuesday, my opening remarks were that Mass. had declared a holiday in honor of Dr. King's birthday - that he was a great leader of his people and I sincerely hoped in time his birthday would be declared a Nat'l holiday. One of our members arose in great anger and said that J. Edgar Hoover had proved Dr. King to be an evil man, a Communist, etc, etc. He had extremely strong feelings on the subject and wound up by saying he would leave the room if I continued to talk of Dr. King. I was directed to do so by the Club and both he and his wife did leave the room.

I used his quote I'm sure your familiar "I have a dream that my four little children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin," etc.

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As the story must have originated from your office, I would appreciate a letter from you either confirming or denial of the above. I'm sure many in our Club now have mixed emotions re: Dr. King.

Sincerely Yours,



b7(c)

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 Director Sec'y _____

[Redacted] b7(c)
 [Redacted] Maine
 [Redacted] 04538
 January 24, 1975

Mrs. Clarence Kelley
 FBI Director
 Washington, DC.

Ack 1-31-75
 WPH:ash

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Dear J. Mr. Kelley:
 I'm sorry that I feel it
 necessary to write the following,
 but I think I should do so in
 an effort to clear the name of
 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in
 this vicinity.

REC-31 105-10600-3954

I am the Chairman of [Redacted], a Senior b7(c)
 Citizen group of both sexes. We
 have a membership of about

27
 20 JAN 25 1975

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 DATE 2-20-81 BY SP4 JRM/ld

CONFIDENCE